

New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 10, 2005
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IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

DID YOU REPLACE YOUR LP GAS WATER HEATER IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS?

IF SO, PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ AND FOLLOW THE ATTACHED INFORMATION FROM THE U. S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC). IT COULD SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY.

The New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office has been investigating fires and other incidents involving White-Rodgers LP and Convertible Gas Water Heater Temperature Controls since receiving a June 22, 2005 complaint from a resident who had experienced a fire and carbon monoxide incident related to their LP gas water heater with a White-Rodgers LP Gas Water Heater Temperature Control. White-Rodgers has voluntarily recalled certain LP and Convertible Gas Water Heater Temperature Controls, in cooperation with CPSC.

Since the receipt of that complaint, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has learned of four additional fires involving gas water heaters in New Hampshire, with White-Rodgers LP gas temperature controls, three of which were in the same condominium complex. Another fire, in a Holderness residence, resulted in over \$100,000 damage. Fortunately, the occupants were awake at the time of the incidents, and were not injured.

The New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office is attempting to determine the number of units shipped into New Hampshire, to assist with insuring notification of the potential problem.

Should you determine that you have one of these controls you should immediately contact White Rogers at 1-800-426-3579 or your installer to arrange for a replacement control.

The following CPSC information relates to the voluntary recall, and should provide all of the safety information needed.

NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2004

Release # 04-128

Firm's Hotline: (800) 426-3579

CPSC Consumer Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

CPSC, White-Rodgers Announce Recall of LP and Convertible Gas Water Heater Temperature Controls

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the following recall in voluntary cooperation with the firm below. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of product: LP and Convertible Gas Water Heater Temperature Controls

Units: 88,000

Manufacturer: White-Rodgers, a division of Emerson Electric Co., of St. Louis, Mo.

Hazard: The gas water heater controls can gradually open instead of snapping open to full flow, which can cause soot to build up on the water heater burner, presenting a fire hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: White-Rodgers has received 12 reports involving soot build-up. Eight of these reports included minor fire damage.

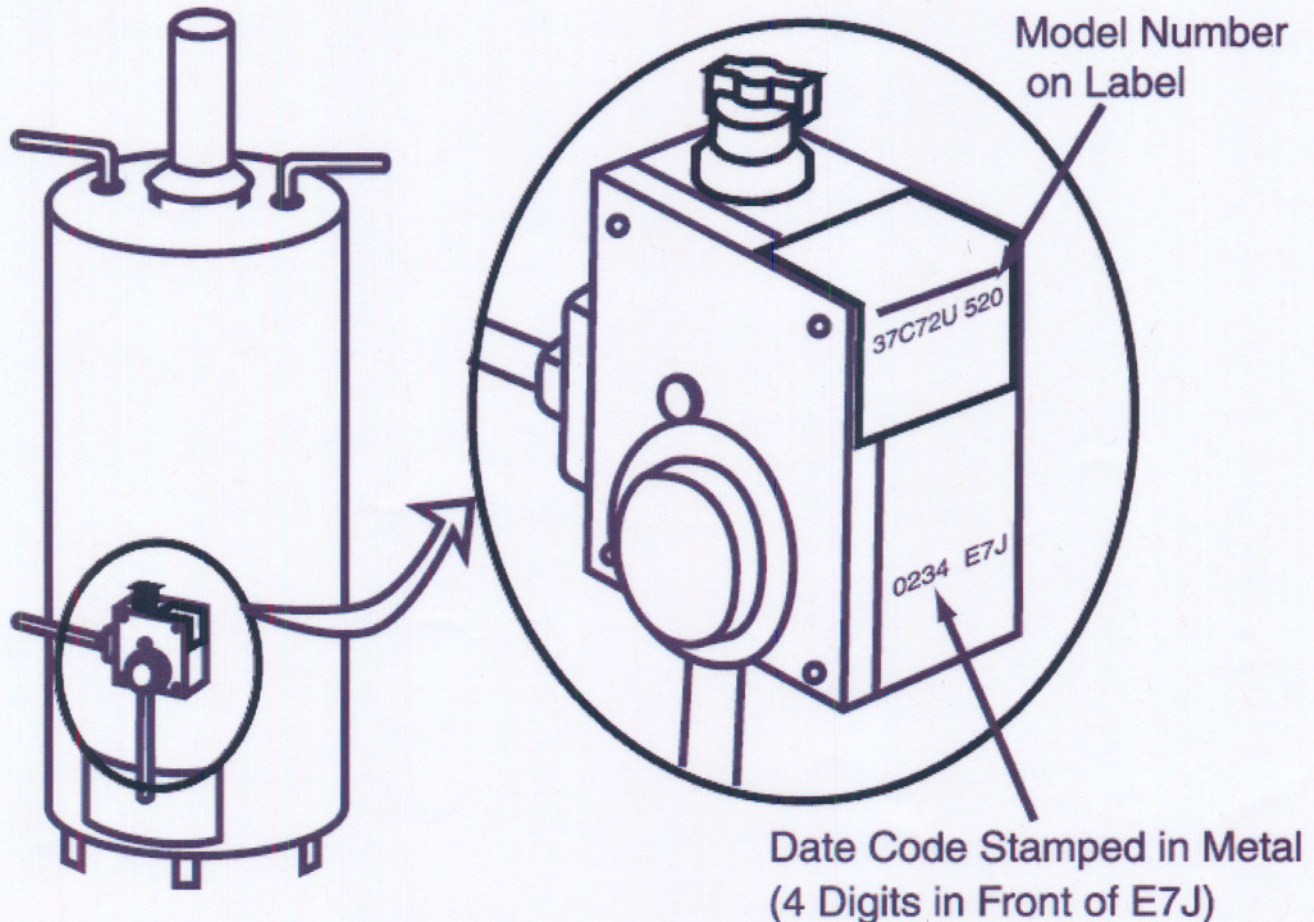
Description: The temperature control is a small metal box located above the access panel door of the gas water heater. A white label with red lettering located on the right side of the control contains one of the following model numbers: 37C55U 658, 37C57U 602, 37C72U 520, 37C72U 546, 37C72U 547, or 37C72U 548, and 37C72U 676. There should be a four-digit metal stamped date code located below the label on the right side of the control. Recalled controls will have date codes 0240 to 0329 (40th week of 2002 to 29th week of 2003). Potentially affected gas water heaters include: AO Smith, Apollo, Crosley, Energysense, Freedom, Intertherm, Kenmore, Maytag, Mission, Myers, Penfield, President, Reliance, Sentry, or State. Beginning serial numbers on these gas water heaters can be checked at www.regcen.com/tempcontrolrecall

Sold at: Retail distributors and independent servicers have sold and/or installed water heaters with the controls from October 2002 through March 2004.

Manufactured in: Mexico

Remedy: Contact White-Rodgers to arrange for a qualified service technician to replace the recalled control free of charge.

Consumer Contact: Call White-Rodgers Special Project Office at (800) 426-3579 or visit their web site at www.regcen.com/tempcontrolrecall



Send the link for this page to a friend! The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$700 billion annually. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard or can injure children. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270, or visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov/talk.html. To join a CPSC email subscription list, please go to www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.